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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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I am a certified public accountant and programmer. I work with both Microsoft and Novell networks. I program for the Microsoft environment. I do not feel that the proposed Microsoft/US government settlement is sufficient. It does nothing to remedy the monopoly situation.

Because of the current monopoly situation Microsoft has been able to:

1. Release new software without fixing adequately bugs in the old software
2. Force changes in licensing agreements that significantly increase the price of software
3. The price of operating system software has gone up instead of gone down as other technology items have.
4. The current XP home and XP professional release is just an indication of the problem. Their monopoly status has allowed them to create a Home release that is not supported on computer networks but because of the \$100 price difference, is not available in stores like BestBuy, Staples, Office Depot, etc. (that is readily available). That limits business options. Prior version of Win9X were also usable on corporate networks which the Home version replaces. Nothing in the settlement would remedy this.
5. Microsoft's software is similar in function to the engine of a car. If a car engine had as many defects Microsofts operating system products, the likes of Ralph Nader and US Consumer Products Division would have a field day. Because of the monopoly situation, they are in a position to constantly force new versions without fixing the prior versions. Moreover, the current indications are that Microsoft is pulling support, especially via corporate licensing programs, for older versions even faster. Because of their track record with bugs releases and security problems, support is being pulled for a stable

version before the

corporate community can adequately test and fully implement these items.

In my view, Microsoft's Operating System Division should be separate from the software division so the operating system division would finally produce a truly stable operating system. Currently, their monopoly status does not allow any viable alternatives as software drives the operating system choice. Without adequate user software, the greatest operating system will not achieve any acceptable level of wide spread use.

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